

January 9, 2009

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up-to-date on various topics:

1. **Budget Schedule:**

The annual town meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009. The annual CIP workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009. Specifics to follow.

2. **Efficiency, Effectiveness and Customer Service:**

Recent examples highlighted as follows.

Office Renovations: This involves shared administrative support between Engineering and Community Development by reconstructing the wall separating these offices. Estimated annual savings \$15,000+ by eliminating part-time administrative support position.

Loss Control: CIRMA recently advised that Glastonbury's outstanding LAP and Worker's Compensation Loss Control Program and results have resulted in a 3 year rate lock. Glastonbury will also be selected as a model for Loss Control programs and initiatives.

Energy Efficiency: The Library has purchased Kill A Watt meters for the collection. These are small appliances that measure electric consumption on home appliances. The meters will circulate for 3 weeks to help residents improve home energy efficiency.

3. **Arbor Acres:**

This 75 acre land acquisition closed on Wednesday, December 24, 2008.

4. **Shovel Ready Projects:**

There is a variety of publicity on a potential federal stimulus program for local "shovel ready" projects. These are projects ready to go in 90 days. A list of potentials for Glastonbury is attached.

5. **Grant Award:**

One of the potential Urban System projects submitted by Glastonbury some months ago involved traffic signal coordination along Main Street between Welles Street and Putnam Boulevard. The project was shifted to the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Federal Grant program. The Town is advised of a \$2.3 million grant award for this project. This is expected to be 100% grant funded.

6. **Note Sale:**

In mid December the Town sold \$3.325 million in bond anticipation notes. These were for land acquisition and some costs for the Nayaug and GHS projects. The low bid was for a 1.27 net interest cost.

7. **Leaf Drop :**

The Sunday leaf drop off program at the Transfer Station was well received again this year with a total of 949 trips over 6 Sundays.

8. **Artificial Turf:**

As noted in a recent news report, the State plans to conduct additional testing on crumb rubber used in artificial turf projects. Compounds noted included zinc and lead. Pre-installation testing in Glastonbury indicated both of these compounds at levels below the Residential Direct Exposure Criteria. Leaching tests were also conducted pre-installation with potential leaching determined to be very limited and below Groundwater Protection Criteria.

9. **Shared Services:**

With budget challenges you will read about efforts to improve inter-municipal cooperation. Glastonbury is participating in over \$5 million of state funded shared service projects. Additionally, we are working with other surrounding communities on a series of other potential shared service arrangements. Examples include Information Technology and dispatching. I have reached out to surrounding communities to schedule meetings to continue such discussions.

10. **Recycling:**

A question was asked concerning recycling revenues to Town. The biggest revenue source is the sale of scrap metal. This is generally the most volatile in terms of pricing. Last year the bid price was \$88 per ton with total revenues of \$50,966. This year we are paid by the market with rates between \$20.40 per ton and \$285.60. Although the rate is now lower than the \$88 received consistently last year, total revenues at the half year point total \$45,087, or approximately 88% of last year's annual total. CRRA also initiated a new revenue last year of \$10 per ton for recyclables delivered under the Town's contract with the Authority. This equates to approximately \$35,000 annually. I did not incorporate this as a budget revenue because of concerns for sustainability. It is quite likely that current economic conditions will prevent this revenue from continuing for the coming years.

I will be happy to review the preceding and any other items Tuesday evening.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

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